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The Capture
of
Jefferson
Davis

JOHN A. FOX

110 WEST 42nd STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10036

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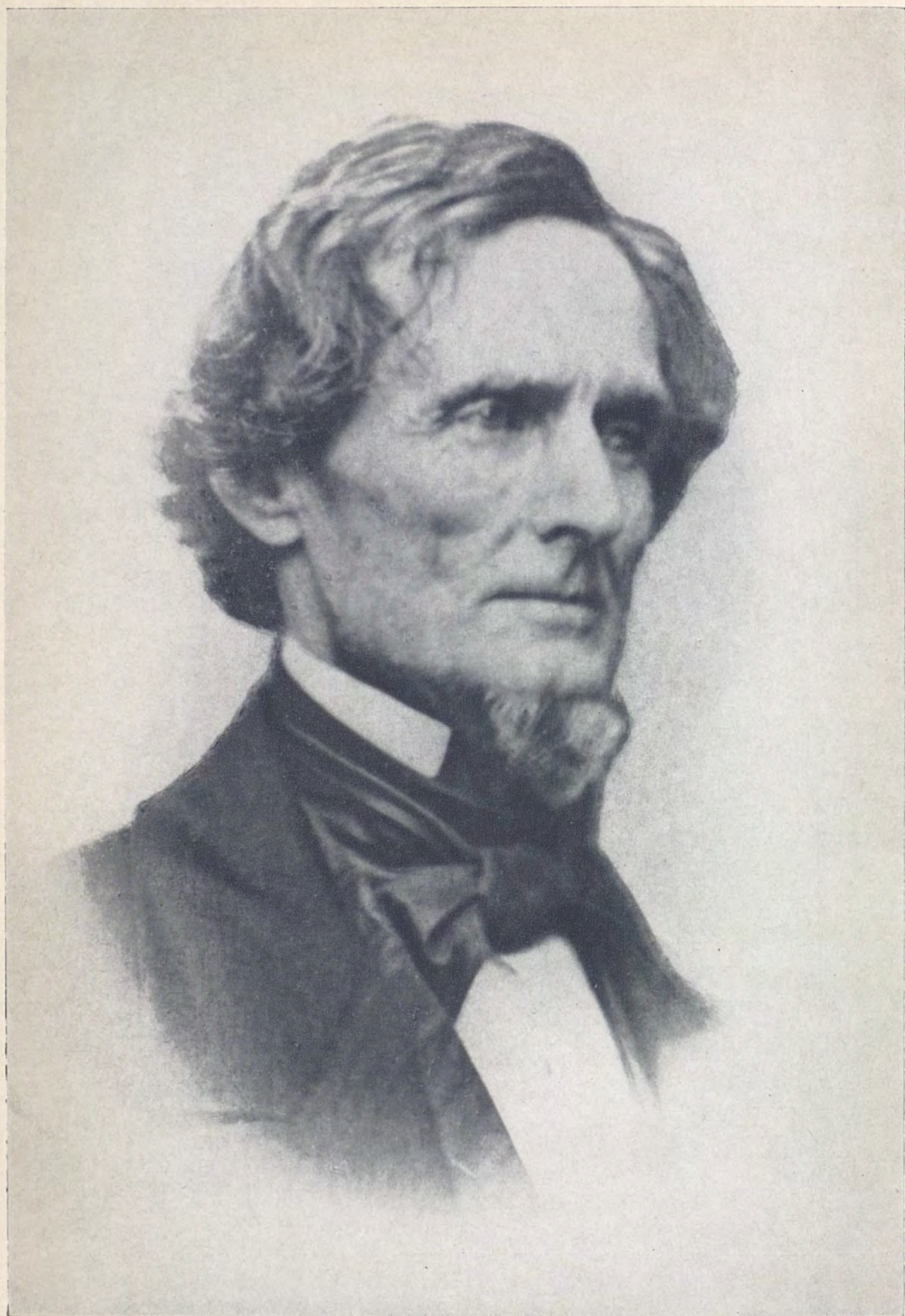
PROLOGUE

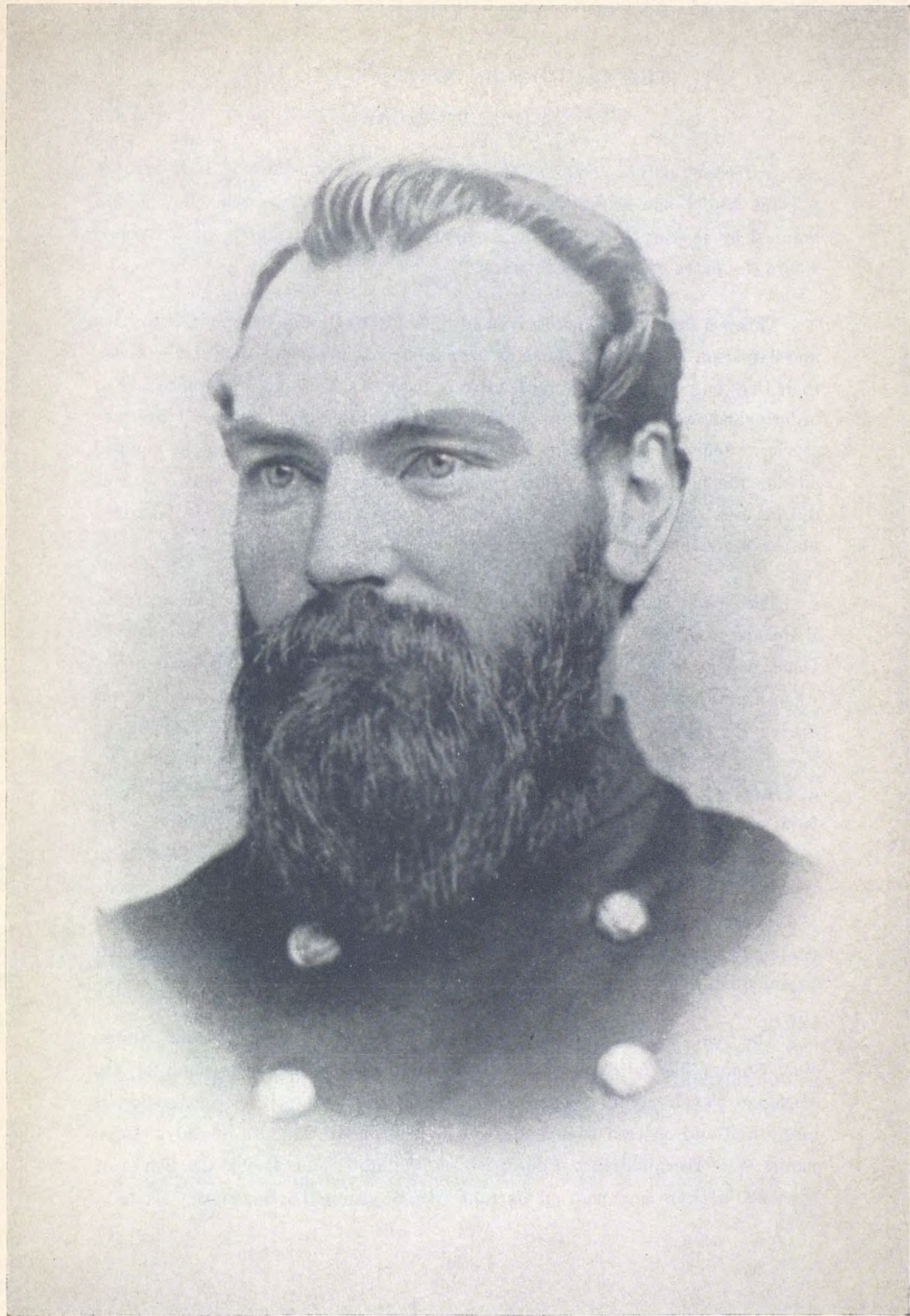
This booklet is the story of the capture of Jefferson Davis as told through the personal papers of Benjamin Pritchard, the Union officer in charge of the capture. The papers have never been made public, and had remained until recently in the Pritchard family home.

It is also the story of an auction lot without parallel as a segment of our history. Every document referred to in the booklet, as well as others not incorporated in this writing, is contained in Lot 400 in the John A. Fox auction of March 11th, 1964.

John A. Fox
110 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10036

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THE CAPTURE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS:

A DOCUMENTARY

Is History only a combination of Time and Circumstance? Is it less important Who a man is, than Where he is and When? Do we each follow a path mapped by Destiny? Are all the moments of glory and tragedy simply points where the paths of two lives intersect?

This is a story of two pathways and their intersection. Benjamin Pritchard and Jefferson Davis — one name as unfamiliar as the other is familiar — began their lives on paths which seemed unlikely to meet. Benjamin Pritchard led an orderly and ordered existence, quite at ease in the regimentation of military service. Jefferson Davis owes his place in history to the fact that he stepped outside the main pattern. Each was activated by the best of motives; each did his best; and each was caught up in a cause that led him where he might not have chosen to go.

The man who was to become Brevet Brigadier-General Benjamin D. Pritchard was born January 29, 1835, in Nelson, Ohio, when Jefferson F. Davis was already a 27-year-old Army lieutenant. Pritchard was still a boy when Davis was serving as United States Senator from Mississippi. It was during Pritchard's college days at Western Reserve that Davis was serving as Secretary of War in the Pierce Cabinet. In 1856 Pritchard came to Michigan, and shortly thereafter entered the law department of the University of Michigan, from which he graduated in 1860. During Pritchard's law school days, Davis was again serving as Senator from Mississippi. Pritchard began law practice in Allegan, Michigan, and was thus engaged when Davis resigned from the Senate at the secession of Mississippi in 1861, when Davis became the provisional president of the Confederacy, and when Davis was inaugurated as the regular president of the Confederacy.

The year is 1862. Abraham Lincoln is President of the United States, Fort Sumter has fallen, and the nation is at war. July comes, and the 4th Michigan Cavalry, with Colonel R. H. G. Minty of Detroit as commander, is authorized and ordered into rendezvous at Detroit on the 29th of July. Companies were recruited in various parts of the state, and among the names of the 1,233 officers and men on its rolls was Benjamin D. Pritchard.

The young lawyer must have felt patriotic pride as he read his commission, signed by Austin Blair, Governor of Michigan:

Know Ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the Patriotism, Valor, Ability and Fidelity of Benjamin D. Pritchard in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Michigan, I do hereby appoint him Captain in the Fourth Regiment, Michigan Cavalry Volunteers, to rank as such from the thirteenth day of August 1862. . .

A certificate printed with the heading of "United States Mustering Office" and dated Detroit, August 23, 1862, reads:

I hereby certify that I have this day Mustered into the Service of the United States Benjamin D. Pritchard of Allegan as Captain in the 4th Regt. Mich. Vol. Cavl. . . .

On the 26th of September the regiment, fully armed, mounted and equipped, left the state for its destination of Louisville, Kentucky. At the head of Company L was Captain Pritchard.

October 14 was the first day of combat for Captain Pritchard's outfit. On this day they encountered Morgan's Raiders at Stamford, Kentucky. From November until the following July, the 4th Michigan was active in Tennessee. Captain Pritchard became familiar with such place names as Rural Hill, Baird's Mill, Hollow Tree Gap, Wilson's Creek Road, Prosperity Church, Wartrace, and Tullahoma. General Minty made Honorable Mention of Captain Pritchard for his participation at Tullahoma.

During these months, Jefferson Davis shifted his attention from one to another of the crises which imperiled the Confederate cause.

In the nightmare forest that was Chickamauga, Captain Pritchard was wounded in action — a Confederate shell in his left arm.

We may assume that a period of recuperation followed. An extract from orders of Brigadier-General W. J. Smith, Chief of Cavalry, Military Division of the Mississippi, dated January 8, 1864, at Pulaski, Tennessee, reads:

Capt. B. D. Pritchard 4th Michigan Cavalry is directed to proceed to Nashville, Tenn. to take charge of recruits for 4th Michigan Cavalry and take them to Regiment. . .

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Austin Blair,
GOVERNOR OF AND OVER THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

To all who shall see these Presents, Greeting:

Know Ye, That, reposing special trust and confidence in the Patriotism, Valor, Ability and Fidelity of **Benjamin D. Richardson** — in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Michigan, I do hereby appoint him **Captain** — in the **Fourth** — **Regiment, Michigan Cavalry** — **VOLUNTEERS**, to rank as such from the **Thirteenth** — day of **August** — **1862**. He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of such office by doing and performing all things thereunto belonging.

And I do strictly charge and Require all Officers and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders. And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as he shall receive from the **PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, from the **GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**, or the **GENERAL** or other **SUPERIOR OFFICERS** set over him, according to the rules and discipline of War. This commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the Governor of the State of Michigan, for the time being.



In Testimony Whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made patent, and the **GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE** to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at Lansing, this **Thirteenth** day of **August** — in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty two — and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty seventh —

By the Governor:

Austin Blair

Geo. W. Kearsy

Secretary of State.

Adjutant General.

United States Mustering Office,

Detroit, August 23rd 1862.

I hereby certify that I have this day Mustered into the
Service of the United States Benjamin G.
Pritchard of Allegan
as Captain in the 4th Regt.
Mich. Vol. Cav^l. He will be obeyed
and respected accordingly

C. R. Smith
In Co, U. S. Army Mustering Officer.

Regimental Order No. 171 from Camp Thomas near Columbia, Tennessee, dated April 25, 1864, tells of new duties for the young Michigan officer:

Capt. B. D. Pritchard having been assigned to command of the 1st Battalion. . . 19th April 1864, he will turn over all Public Property for which he is accountable to Lieut. T. J. Parker who is hereby assigned to the command of "L" Company.

During the remainder of the summer the men of Captain Pritchard's regiment were involved in frequent skirmishes in Georgia, and the first fourteen days of August they were in the Siege of Atlanta.

As Jefferson Davis' political fortunes waned, Pritchard's military career was in the ascendancy. On November 26, 1864, Austin Blair, Governor of the State of Michigan, signed Benjamin D. Pritchard's commission as Lieutenant-Colonel.

Notice of promotion had not yet reached Louisville on December 2, when a Regimental Order states:

Major R. B. Robbins compelled to be absent on account of physical disability is hereby relieved from duty as Provost of this regiment and Capt. B. D. Pritchard is appointed as such. . . .

An interesting insight into the cavalryman's life is provided in Special Orders No. 157, headed Louisville, Ky. December 7, 1864, from the Headquarters Second Division Cavalry:

. . . Mounted details . . . under officers who are good judges of horses, will make a thorough search of the city of Louisville, all stables and places where horses are likely to be concealed and sieze *every horse or mare, suitable for Cavalry service*, not already in Government Service — without distinction of person. No horse or mare suitable for Service will be spared *under any circumstances*. . . . As none of these horses are to be given back the officers siezing them will be careful not to take worthless ones or such as the Gov't would lose on in paying for them. . . .

The War's final year, 1865, finds the President of the Confederacy treading a solitary way in his belief that Southern independence could still be saved.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pritchard's diary takes us with him along the path that leads him toward Jefferson Davis. We see the war through the eyes of the Union officer as we read his diary.

STATE OF MICHIGAN



Austin Blair,
GOVERNOR OF AND OVER THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

To all who shall see these Presents, Greeting:

Know Ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the Patriotism, Valor, Ability and Fidelity of **Benjamin D. Pritchard** in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Michigan, I do hereby appoint him **Lieutenant-Colonel** — in the **Fourth** — Regiment, **Michigan Cavalry** — **VOLUNTEERS** to rank as such from the **Twenty Sixth** — day of **November** — 1864. He is therefore enjoiningly and diligently to discharge the duties of such office by doing and performing all things to him so belonging.

And I do strictly charge and Require all Officers and Soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders. And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as he shall receive from the **PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, from the **GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN**, or the **GENERAL** or other **SUPERIOR OFFICERS** set over him, according to the rules and discipline of War. This commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the Governor of the State of Michigan, for the time being.

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made patent, and the **GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE** to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at Lansing this **Twenty Ninth** — day of **December** — in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty four — and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty ninth.

By the Governor

Austin Blair

Edw. D. Pritchard
Adjutant General.

January 1, 1865. Elizabeth Town, Ky. 40 miles South of Louisville. Regt. broke camp at 9 O'clock A.M. marching southward, everybody cursing the management of the command, which has been in such a manner as to almost totally deprive the command of forage and that to in a country where there was abundance.

Many of the men were entirely without rations and all caused by the laziness of a few fed. Officers who were to lazy to get beyond the warmth of their camp fires. . . .

Received a mail tonight, and a precious letter telling me that Mary my Dear Wife was out of danger. Which makes it a truly happy New Year.

January 5. Left Camp at Rocky Hill Station . . . Made a march of 25 miles when went into camp 3 miles south of Bowling Green, receiving forage from the Station.

This days march was through one of the finest portions of Ky. before the war but the deep sins of armed neutrality was written in lines too deep for irrasure in the coming Century.

January 8 . . . Came to camp of the 1st Brigade in which 5 men were shot by gurillers who first captured them tied their hands together behind and seated them on a log and deliberately shot five and wounded the sixth. . . .

Friday, 13th of January . . . on the Columbia Pike . . . where the late battle of Franklin was fought. I have never seen symptoms of more severe fighting and the dead are buried in the place where they fell and in many places the Rebel graves are as thick as cornhills would be planted . . . All the timber on the ground fought over is literally cut to pieces. . . .

Daily entries in the small black leather book give a graphic history of the 4th Michigan Cavalry and reveal Colonel Pritchard's innermost reflections.

January 17. All day have the long weary hours crawled one after another whilst the impatient spirit has chafed within its tenement of clay at the narrow limits of its jurisdiction. . . .

January 24. Today has stepped forward from the shadows of a bitter cold night. Clear and beautiful in its morning robe of smiles and sunshine to gladden the heart of the worn and weary soldiers who had stretched their weary limbs to rest upon a bed of snow, at the hour of midnight without supper.

January 25 . . . my reg't is sweetly reposing upon empty stomachs and a huge stone pile called a hill & which we are directed to convert into a home.

January 27 . . . The men are becoming weak and discouraged for want of food as they are living on parched corn . . . I suppose this is all right but it requires a pretty sound patriotism to support a mans belief under such circumstances. . . .

January 28 . . . If Gen. Wilson would make a few of his orders over into supplies he would be very much more practical. Night has settled down over this brave band of patriots, the sun casting its last lingering rays upon the proudest monument of a nations Liberty, an Army suffering the pains of hunger and fatigue without a murmur.

February 1 . . . All looks gloomy but the fortitude with which the men bear this great suffering is worthy & characteristic only of the truest Patriots such as these brave men are .

April 8 . . . 1 P. M. have just received orders to be ready to move at once. 3 P. M. General call has just sounded. 3:30 Boots & Saddles. 4 P. M. advance is moving . . . the heads of our horses directed towards the once proud Capitol of Ala. . . . We are really on the sacred soil of the confederacy.

April 10 . . . I have just recd. orders to detail two men from my Regt to remain at Selma to nurse our wounded. It seems hard as they will be held as prisoners of war.

April 11 . . . Midnight . . . finds us lying with the bridle reins across our arms waiting. . . .

April 12 . . . have just received dispatch . . . that Montgomery is evacuated & that the Mayor has met our advance with a flag of truce, offering a surrender of the City asking for protection for property. So the proud old City of Montgomery is ours without a shot. . . .

In the light of the next month's events, the next entry is of special interest.

April 13 . . . just entering the haughty old Capitol of Ala . . . the foot of the "Vandal Yankee" is upon the serpent's neck, and its slave-ridden populace who three years since awoke the demons wild acclaim over the inauguration & installment of Jeff. Davis as the devils vice regent on earth. . . .

April 20 . . . we were met by a flag of truce under the Reb. Gen. Robertson, but Gen Wilson believing it to be an imposition sent orders to Col. Minty comd'g the advance to give it just five minutes to get out of the way & if not gone in that time to shoot the party down. . . . (Additional entry made later in the day) The flag of truce was to announce an armistice between Sherman & Johnson.

April 23 . . . We have rumors that President Lincoln has been assassinated in a Richmond Theatre, together with his son & that Secretary Seward is badly wounded. If true, I hope hostilities will begin in two hours & last until there is not one stone left upon another in the accused Confederacy.

April 25 . . . may the Gods of War permit the angels of love to minister to us often by bringing mails to us. . . .

In picturesque phrases, the 30-year-old officer preserves for us the days leading up to that point in Time when his life is linked to that of Davis, and history is made.

May 7 . . . I have recd orders to take my Regt & move down the Ocmulgee River from 75 to 100 miles & take possession of all the ferries & having Scouts across the river to scour the surrounding country for the purpose of capturing Jeff Davis or any of the fleeing refugees from Richmond.

May 10 . . . Moved up & captured the whole camp without firing a shot, which proved to be Jeff Davis (who attempted to make his escape in disguise of an old woman, fit ending for such a cause as his), together with his family, and portions of his Civil & Military Staff. Soon after capture had a verry sad & unfortunate collision with 1st Wis Cav in which several men were wounded & two killed, either of whom was worth more than the whole Southern Confederacy. . . .

At the back of the diary Colonel Pritchard had made the following entry:

List of Prisoners conveyed to Washington

Jeff Davis & Family

Jno. H. Reagan P. M. Gen.

Wm. Preston Johnson, Col. & A. D. C.

F. R. Lubbock, Col. & A. D. C.

Burton N. Harrison, Private Sec.

Alex. H. Stephens, Vice Pres.

Joseph Wheeler, Maj. Gen.

Edward W. Rawle, Capt. & A. B.

R. B. Ryan, Lt. Engineer

M. G. Hudson, Lt. & A. D. C.

Victor Maurand Maj. (correct name is Maurin)

Geo. V. Moody Capt. Artillery

Leland Hathaway, Lt. Cav.

Wm. W. Monroe, Private

Jno. Messick, Private

Clement C. Clay

Jeff D. Howell, M. S.

Mrs. J. Davis & 4 children

Miss Maggie Howell

Mrs. C. C. Clay

2 Waiting Maids

May,

WEDNESDAY, 10,

1865.

Our Cavalry A.M., have just arrived at Brownsville. Moon is shining brightly. Have examined the roads & find that neither Harnden or the Rebel train have moved. Learn from inhabitants that a free unit into Camp 1 1/2 miles out on Abbeville road. Potence moved out within 1/2 mile of camp & prepare to surround and capture the same. Give Officers strict orders to learn character of all free unit before firing on them as Camp might be surprised.

At 3 1/2 O.C.M., moved up & captured the whole camp without firing a shot, which proved to be Jeff Davis (who attempted to make his escape in disguise of an old woman, fit clothing for such a career & his) together with his family, and portions of his Civil & Military staff.

Soon after capture had a very sad & unfortunate collision with 1st Miss Cav in which several men were wounded & two killed, either of whom was worth more than the whole Southern Confederacy. Arrived at Abbeville at dark.

Special Orders }
No 77

Head. Quarters Cavalry Corps U. S. A.
Macons Ga. May 15th 1865

II. Lieut. Col. B. S. Pritchard 4th Michigan Cavalry, with a guard of three officers and twenty men, will proceed without delay via Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah, to Washington City in charge of Jefferson Davis and such other prisoners as may be entrusted to his care. On his arrival at Washington, Col. Pritchard will report to the Secretary of War for further orders.

While en route he will take every precaution to prevent the escape of his prisoners - and will see that they are not permitted to communicate, verbally or in writing with any one except a member of the guard.

One officer should be on duty at all times with the guard.

The Quartermaster's Department will furnish the necessary transportation.

III. Breck Major General Upton will direct the Provost Marshal of his Division to turn over to Colonel Pritchard five hundred (\$500.) dollars for the purpose of

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.
345 Pm May 19th 1865
By Telegraph from Washington
To Col. Pritchard

You will remain at Fort
Monroe for orders -
Your Prisoners remaining on
the Clyde Edwin M. Stanton
Secy of War

United States Military Telegraph.
By Telegraph from
To Col. Pritchard
on board Ste. Clyde
Came Col James

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.
8:50 Pm May 19th 1865
By Telegraph from Washington
To Col. B. R. Pritchard
Hampton Roads

You will retain your
prisoners in safe custody
until the arrival of Maj.
Gen. Halleck who will
reach Fortress Monroe to-
morrow at twelve o'clock
with further instructions
Please acknowledge the
receipt of this telegram.
Edwin M. Stanton
Secy of War.

Head Qrs. Milly. Div. of the James,
Fort Monroe, May 20th, 1865.

Col. Pritchard

Steamer Clyde

Col.

You will deliver to-morrow
morning at six o'clock to Com.
Parker of the "Maumee", Genl
Wheeler & staff and Cols Subbick
& Johnston, prisoners in your charge,
he receipting to you for the same.

At ten o'clock A.M. to-morrow
you will deliver to Com. Frailey
of the "Tuscarora", Messrs Stevens
& Reagan. Com. Frailey will receipt
to you for them. The Admiral will
send boats or tugs at the hours
mentioned to receive the prisoners.

Very respectfully
Yours obt. servt.
Wm. H. Murray
M. Comd.

On board Steamer Cyclops
off Fort Monroe May 21/65
I received of Col. D. G. Ritchard
1st Mich. Cav. the following named
Prisoners viz.

Thos H. Reagan, P. M. Leung the so called
Alax. H. Stephens Vice Pres. Confederate States

The above named persons
who were held as prisoners of the United
States were turned over by Col. Ritchard
to me in obedience to orders from
Major General Halleck U. S. A. bearing
date May 20/65.

W. Madison Trailey
Capt. H. A. Harris

Head Quarters Milly Div. of the James.
Fort Monroe, May 21st 1865.

Col. Pritchard

Steamer Clyde.

Col.

No persons will be allowed
to approach the Clyde, except under
the orders of Brig Major Genl
Miles or by superior authority.
Hereafter no person outside will
be permitted to communicate
verbally or in writing with your
prisoners, nor will any person
on board be permitted to
communicate with outsiders.

Very respectfully
Yours obt servt.
H. W. Murray
Wg. Comd.

Recd from General
17th April 1865
J. C. Varnum
P. M. M. M.

Head Qrs. Military Division of the James
Fort Monroe, May 21st, 1865

Special Orders }
No.

I. Brig Major Genl Miles is
herely appointed to the command
of the Military District of Fort Monroe
with his Head Quarters in the Fort.
Major Genl Ord will fix the limits
of the District in land.

II. Col. Pritchard & his command
will be subject to the orders of
Genl Miles for prison guards and
will be quartered in the Fort.

By order of Major Genl Halleck
D. C. Wagner,
Asst Adj't Genl.

Col. Pritchard.

Fort Monroe Va
May 22^d 1865

Received of
Lt. Col. B. L. Pritchard
4th Mich. Cavalry the following named
prisoners viz.

Jefferson Davis } Late President of the
} so called Confederate
} States

Clement C. Clay } Supposed accomplice
} in the assassination
} of President Lincoln

These prisoners were
delivered to me by Col Pritchard in
obedience to orders from the Sec. War

Wm. A. Miles

Off. Major Gen. U.S.A.

To the officer commanding at Fort Monroe
Sir,

Will you have the kindness to
forward the annexed telegram to Washington.

Yours very respectfully
(sgd) Varina Davis.

To Hon. Montgomery Blair
or Col. Archie Campbell,

I am on a Steamboat bely de,
destination Washington. I am four small children
with me, and may require assistance at the
landing. If convenient you will oblige me
by meeting me there.

(sgd) Varina Davis.

Miss Coleman Wortham
Cor 1st & Grace St.
Richmond Va.

Richmond, & remember
with much pleasure
the pleasant hours we
have spent together.
I called on your
sister & made her
acquaintance in the
latter. I hope to see
you again, but can
form no idea when.
Please remember
me to your mother
& other Misses Goss.
I have undy one undy
fatigue since I saw
you but my health is
good. God bless
you.
Very truly yours,
John H. Wagon.

The complete story of the capture of Jefferson Davis is best told in the words of the man who was in command of the capturing party. Colonel Pritchard's official report is a treasure of history.

Head Qrs. 4 Mich Detach
Washington D. C. May 25. 1865

Hon. E. M. Stanton,
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that, in obedience to orders received from Col. R. H. G. Minty Comd'g Division, I left Macon Ga at eight-o'clock P. M. on the 7th inst. in command of the 4 Mich Cav'y with a numerical strength of 419 men and 20 officers with directions to move down the South bank of the Ocmulgee River from 75 to 100 miles: to take possession of all the ferries below Hawkinsville, picket the river as far as the strength of my Regt would permit and to scout the country on both sides of the river for the purpose of capturing Jeff Davis and party, who were reported to have left Washington Ga. on the morning of the 4th inst travelling Southwestward with an intention of crossing the Ocmulgee at some point between Hawkinsville and Jacksonville, or to capture any other Gov't parties who might be fleeing from Richmond. I marched the command all night and until 8 o'clock A. M. of the 8th inst. having marched thirty-six miles when I halted five hours, rested and fed my command. Moving on again at One o'clock P. M. I marched 15 miles farther and encamped for the night three miles below Hawkinsville, having marched a distance of 51 miles inside of 24 hours including all stops.

At 8 A. M. of the 9th inst I moved my command out in the direction of Abbyville which place I reached at 3 o'clock P. M. and where I discovered the first traces of the object of our search.

Here I learned that a train of twelve wagons & two ambulances had crossed the Ocmulgee River at Brown Ferry $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles above Abbyville about 12 o'clock on the previous night, had stopped at Abbyville long enough to feed their animals and moved on again before daylight in the direction of Irwinsville.

I here met the Lt. Col. of the 1st Wis. Cav. Harnden who informed me that he with a force of 70 men was following on the track of the train & that his men were from one to two hours in advance.

As Col. Harnden had ample force to cope with that supposed to be the train I decided not to move on the same road with him & continued my course three miles farther down the river, where I learned additional facts regarding the character of the train, the parties with it, and which convinced me that it belonged to some of the parties for whom we were looking, and immediately determined to pursue by another road believing that if they were hard pressed at any time they would pass from road to road to baffle the efforts of their pursuers, and as they were reported as doing before crossing the river.

Accordingly I ordered a detail of 128 men & 7 Officers (beside myself) of the best mounted in the command, leaving the rest of the Regt under command of Capt. Hathaway directing him to picket the river, scout the country, etc. in accordance with former orders. At four o'clock I put the column in motion, moving down the river road a distance of twelve miles to a point known as Wilcox's Mills, thence by a blind woods road through an almost unbroken waste of

pine forest for a distance of 18 miles in a Southwesterly direction to Irwinsville, which we reached about one o'clock on the morning of the 10th inst. Here passing my Command as Confederate and inquiring for "*our train*" representing that 'we were a rear guard left to fight back the Yankees etc.' I learned from the inhabitants that a train and party meeting the description of the one reported to me at Abbyville had encamped at dark the night previous about 1½ miles out on the Abbyville road. I at once turned the head of my column in that direction, impressing a Negro for a guide. After moving to within one half mile of the camp I halted under cover of a slight eminence, dismounted 25 men & sent them under command of Lieut. Purinton to make the circuit of the camp and gain a position in its rear and thus cut off (sic) all possibility of escape, and with special directions to execute the movement if possible without discovery, but if discovered and an alarm was raised I would immediately charge the camp from the front when he was to operate with his command from any point which he might occupy. That if no alarm was raised I should consider that he had gained the position directed where he was to rest until I should commence the attack from the front. I had not decided at this time whether to move upon the camp at once or to wait until daylight, but upon further consideration decided to delay it as it was now after two o'clock in the morning, the moon was getting low and the deep shadows of the forest were falling heavily, rendering it easy for persons to escape undiscovered to the woods and swamps in the darkness. After waiting an hour & more and just as the earliest dawn appeared I put the column in motion and was enabled to approach within four or five rods of the camp undiscovered and in an instant the whole camp with its inmates was ours; a chain of mounted guards was immediately thrown around the camp and dismounted sentries placed at the tents and wagons. The surprise was so complete, and the movement so sudden that none of the enemy were enabled to make the slightest defense, or even arouse from their slumbers in time to grasp their weapons which were lying by their sides, before they were wholly in our power. But at this moment a new scene opened destined in its mournful results to cloud the otherwise perfect and glorious success of our expedition. For we had not held possession of the camp but a few minutes and not long enough to ascertain the extent of our capture, when sharp firing was commenced between the dismounted forces under Lieut Purinton, and what was supposed at the time to be the rebel force guarding the train. The firing was about one hundred rods in rear of the camp and across a narrow swamp. I immediately ordered all my forces forward to the scene of the firing, leaving only sufficient to guard the camp and prisoners.

On arriving on the ground I found my men engaging a force of dismounted men who were concealed behind trees etc. I at once formed my men in line, dismounted them, threw out a line of skirmishers who were advancing handsomely when I became apprehensive that we were contending with some of our own men from the determination displayed on their part and the peculiar report of their firearms. I ordered my men at once to cease firing and rode out toward our opponents and halloed to them asking who they were, and received the reply "1st Wisconsin."

This mistake was not discovered until it had cost the lives of two men killed, and a Lieutenant severely wounded in the 4th Mich., and three men severely and several slightly wounded in the 1st Wisconsin. This lamentable accident arose principally from the refusal of the Sergt. in charge of the advance of the 1st Wisconsin to give a proper response to the challenge of Lieut. Purinton, and partially from the over zeal of both parties, each supposing they had met the enemy and it was yet so dark in the woods that it was impossible to distinguish the uniforms of the men.

As soon as the firing had ceased I returned to camp and took an inventory of our capture, when I ascertained that we had captured Jeff Davis and Family — a wife & four children, John H. Reagan, his Post-Master Gen'l, Col's Harrison & Lubbock A. D. C.s to Davis, Burton N. Harrison his private Secretary, Maj. Maurand, Capt. Moody, Lieut. Hathaway, Jeff D. Howell Midshipman in the rebel navy and 12 private soldiers, besides Miss Maggie Howell sister of Mrs Davis, two waiting maids one white and one colored & several servants. We also captured five wagons, three ambulances, about 15 horses and from 25 to 30 mules. The Train was mostly loaded with Commissary Stores and private baggage of the Party. Upon returning to camp I was accosted by Davis from among the prisoners who asked if I was the Officer in command, and upon my answering him that I was and asking him whom I was to call him, he replied that I might call him what or whoever I pleased, when I replied to him that I would call him Davis, and after a moment's hesitation he said that was his name. Then he suddenly drew himself up in true royal dignity and exclaimed, "I suppose that you consider it bravery to charge a train of defenseless women & children but it is *Theft* — it is *Vandalism*."

After allowing the prisoners time to prepare breakfast I mounted them on their own horses taking one of the ambulances for my wounded & one of the wagons for the dead, using the other two ambulances for the conveyance of the women and children, and started on my return by the direct route to Abbyville where I arrived at sunset of the same day. Here I halted for the night and called in the rest of my Regt from its duty along the river and resumed my march toward Macon at an early hour on the morning of the 11th after having buried our dead and performed the last solemn rites of the soldier over his fallen comrades, sending couriers in advance to announce the success of the expedition. On the afternoon of the 11th and when several miles below Hawkinsville we met the rest of our Brigade just coming out from Macon and received from them the first knowledge of the President's Proclamation, accompanied by Gen'l Wilson's order offering a reward for the capture of Davis &c. Retaining my independent command I continued my march to Macon where I arrived at 3 o'clock P. M. on the 13th inst. While yet on the march and 9 miles out of town I received orders by courier to provide myself with a special detail of three officers & twenty men from my Regt and prepare to depart at once for Washington as special escort for Davis and Party, also to take 150 men to act as train guard as far as Atlanta. I left Macon by special train at 7 o'clock in the evening of the 13th under the direction of Maj. Gen'l Wilson, having turned over all the private soldiers captured with Davis and party excepting two, receiving an accession of Clement C. Clay and wife. Arriving at Atlanta at daylight on the morning of the 14th I found a train and guard in readiness to convey and escort the party to Augusta where we arrived at sunset of the same day, finding carriages and everything in readiness to convey us to the Steamer Standish lying four miles below the city. We arrived on board at 8 o'clock where I received Alex. H. Stephens and Maj. Gen'l Wheeler and Staff and immediately sailed for Savannah where we arrived at one o'clock A. M. of the 16th. Reported to Gen'l Burge and at 4 o'clock A. M. the Steamer Emile was ordered alongside and the prisoners and guard were transferred on board when she immediately steamed for Hilton Head, when opposite Ft. Jackson we met Steamer Coit with Gen'l Gilmore on board to whom I reported, and when he reached Savannah he telegraphed to Hilton Head for the Steamer Clyde to be got in readiness at once, to receive the prisoners and convey them to Washington, and upon our arrival we found all things in readiness and the transfer from the Emile to the Clyde took place immediately.

And at 3 o'clock P.M. of the 16th we put to sea under convoy of the Steam Sloop of War Tuscarora. Arrived off Fortress Monroe at noon of the 19th inst. I immediately proceeded to shore and telegraphed my arrival to the Adjutant Gen'l & received orders in reply to anchor out & await further orders.

At midnight of the same day I received further orders from your Honor to the same effect saying that Gen'l Halleck would be there at noon of the 20th to arrange for the final disposition of the prisoners. We remained on ship board until the 22nd inst. disposing meanwhile of all the prisoners except Davis, Clay and families in obedience to orders from Gen'l Halleck and as per receipts in my possession. On the afternoon of that day the Prisoners Davis and Clay were transferred under orders from the same source to the Casemates of Fortress Monroe, and turned over to Bvt. Maj. Gen'l Miles the 4th Mich Cav'y acting as special escort, after which it was temporarily assigned quarters within the fort.

On the afternoon of the 23rd I received orders from the War Department through Gen'l Miles directing me to procure the disguise worn by Davis at the time of his capture and proceed to Washington and report to the Secretary of War. Accordingly I went over to the Steamer Clyde and rec'd from Mrs. Davis a ladies waterproof cloak or robe & which Mrs. Davis said was worn by Davis as a disguise at the time of his capture, and which was identified by the men who saw it on him at the time. On the morning following the balance of the disguise was procured which consisted of a shawl which was identified and admitted to be the one by Mrs. Davis. These articles I brought to Washington and turned them over to the Secretary of War. And this closes my account of the capture and custody up to the time of his being turned over to the United States Authorities of the great Conspirator and Traitor Jefferson Davis.

But I would not close this report without recording my evidence of the high merits due to every Officer and soldier in the command for their earnest zeal and untiring perseverance through many sleepless nights and long weary marches many going entirely without food for 48 consecutive hours. And it is with great consolation that I am able to state that whatever efforts were put forth either by individuals or by the command for the capture of Davis, they were not called forth by the glitter of gold or incited by prospective rewards but were actuated solely by patriotism and the highest sense of the soldiers duty: for no knowledge of the Presidents Proclamation or General Wilsons Order offering rewards for Davis were received until two days after the capture.

It is indeed hard to individualize where all have done their whole duty, but still I would make special mention of those assigned to important duties and who performed those duties well, among whom are Capt. Hathaway commanding that part of the Reg't picketing the River. Capt. Chas. T. Hudson in command of advance guard of 14 picked men & who led the column into the Camp, Lieuts Silas I. Stauber and Henry S. Boutell who were Com'd'g fifty men each in Detachment the latter of whom was severely wounded whilst gallantly leading his men, Lieut A. B. Purinton who had charge of dismounted men & making the circuit of the enemies camp, Lieuts Dickinson and Davis for general duties as aids & Bennett commanding rear guard. All of the above officers are entitled to the highest praise and in my Judgement merit promotion.

I would also mention the names of Corporals Munger of "C" Co., Crittenden of "E" Co. together with Privates Jas. Bullard "C" Co., Andrew Bee and Daniel Edwards of "L" Co., who were present at the halting of Davis, beside several others whose names I did not obtain before leaving the regiment.

And in conclusion at the request of the Adjutant General that I should state in my report to whom in my Judgement the reward offered by the Gov't ought to be given, I would say that in view of all facts I am convinced that to no one individual does it justly belong for whilst one man might have been fortunate enough to have said "Halt" to Davis first it was while he was yet within the regular line of Sentries thrown around the camp, and while some man was doing this (of which there are several claimants) others were performing equally important duties in guarding fighting &c. And I feel that in no case should the reward be granted to a less number than the 128 men and 8 officers who were actually present at the time of Davis capture, and I am inclined to the opinion that it should be distributed to the 419 men and 20 Officers comprising the expedition, and when I say this I believe I utter the wishes of a majority of the Officers and men.

And for the guidance of the Department I recapitulate to the following extent, to wit:

Special detail present at capture,

1 Lt. Colonel
1 Captain
4 1st Lieutenants
2 2nd Lieutenants
128 Enlisted men

Picketing River Scouting Country &c.

1 Captain
6 1st Lieutenants
5 2nd Lieutenants
291 Enlisted Men

Total Commissioned	20
Total Enlisted	419

With these remarks the whole is respectfully submitted, and I have the honor to subscribe myself

Very Respectfully

Your Ob'd't Ser'v't

Lieut Col. 4 Mich. Cav'y

On July 2, when Pritchard was back in Nashville at the headquarters of the 4th Michigan Cavalry, he prepared a similar report to General Minty at the general's request. The lengthy and detailed report is substantially the same as the report to Stanton, which we have quoted in its entirety. Some additional sidelights are included, such as:

. . . Col. Harnden . . . was convinced that it (the wagon train) belonged to some of the Richmond parties and thought Mrs. Davis was with it, but did not think that Davis himself was with it, as he had been reported travelling by himself with a small escort. . .

... There was no plan of action agreed upon between Col. H. and myself, as both of us knew nothing about the roads. I continued to move on down the river for a distance of about 3 miles when I found a negro guarding his masters wagon which had broken down in the road who gave an account of the passage of the Davis party over Browns ferry stating that at the time of the crossing they would allow no lights to be made not even to allow the Ferryman to make change saying they would pay him amply for his services, and did pay him a ten dollar gold piece and a ten dollar confederate note, also relating other suspicious incidents which convinced me that either Davis or some other very important personages were with the train.

... I had no thoughts at that time of being able to reach Irwinsville in advance of Col. H. as the distance I should have to march would be from 8 to 10 miles greater than that traveled by him and his command was then at least two hours on its way. . .

... found no traces of the train or party before reaching Irwinsville where we arrived about One O'clock on the morning of May 10th, and were surprised to find no traces of either Col. Harnden or the rebels. The roads were first closely examined in all directions, but no traces of the passage of a train, or a mounted force could be discovered. After which I resorted to inquiry, passing to the opposite side of the town from which we had arrived so that the presence of my command might not be known and representing ourselves as Confederates, it was readily learned from the inhabitants that a party had encamped at sunset the night previous from 1 to 3 miles out on the Abbyville road, and that some of the men had come into town during the evening. At first I thought it must be the 1st Wis. but upon further inquiry learned that the party had tents and wagons which I knew was not the case with the 1st Wis., but thinking there might still be some mistake regarding the character of the party I gave my officers strict orders with reference to learning the character of all parties before firing upon them. After which I moved the command out to within a half mile of the encampment, impressing a negro for a guide. . .

... Col. Harnden told me after the capture that he did not think he would have captured Davis in the manner his column was moving, as his advance would have given the alarm in time for Davis to escape. And perhaps it would have been better that it should have been so. But I would not censure anyone for I believe each done what he believed to be right at the time and under the circumstances. And I understand that the Sergt. in charge of the advance of the 1st Wis. had orders to fire upon any force he met. . .

Documents and letters among Pritchard's papers serve as footnotes to the official reports. We find orders to Colonel Pritchard to escort the prisoners, with instructions regarding transportation arrangements and guarding of the prisoners. Ther are two military telegrams to Pritchard from Secretary of War Stanton with further instructions concerning the prisoners.

An element of pathos appears in messages which the prisoners hoped to send, but which Col. Pritchards orders had forbidden. Mrs. Davis addressed the "officer commanding at Fortress Monroe":

Sir,

Will you have the Kindness to forward the annnexed telegram to Washington. Yours very respectfully,

(sgd) Varina Davis

The unsent telegram is on the same sheet of paper:

To. Hon. Montgomery Blair
or Col. Archie Campbell,

I am on a Steamboat Clyde, destination Washington. Have four small children with me, and may require assistance at the landing. If convenient you will oblige me by meeting me there.

(sgd) Varina Davis

There is something of irony in the fact that the Postmaster General of the Confederacy — he whose concern throughout the war was the transmission of letters — was unable to send a letter. The envelope is addressed to Mrs. Coleman Worthman/cor 1st & Grace St./Richmond/Va. and the two pages inside read as follows:

On Prison Ship
Near Fortress Monroe
May 20, 1865

My Dear Miss Maggie,

I am here a prisoner of war, and am to leave by sea for Boston Harbor, in the morning in company with Vice President Stephens. I regret much that I was prevented from visiting my children & friends in Texas. And can now form no opinion when I may be able to do so. I have often thought of you since leaving Richmond, & remember with much pleasure the pleasant hours we have spent together.

I called on your sister & made her acquaintance in Charlotte. I hope to see you again, but can form no idea when. Please remember me to your mother and to the Misses Gornett. I have undergone much fatigue since I saw you but my health is good. God bless you..

Very truly yours,
/s/ John H. Reagan

One wonders just how the 3c 1861 stamps were obtained by the prisoners to be placed on three unsent letters. Perhaps the guards supplied the stamps before it was known that the prisoners were being held incommunicado. A letter from Lt. Ryan is addressed to Miss Carrie Ryan, Cusseta, Alabama, and is quoted here:

Dear Carrie,

I mailed a letter to you from Hilton Head, not having an opportunity to do so at Savannah. After a passage of $3\frac{1}{2}$ days (rather slow) we reached here yesterday morning and have been waiting to hear our destiny ever since. Tonight we learn that Genl. Wheeler & those with him will leave for Fort Delaware tomorrow morning. The rest of the prisoners will be divided out to other places perhaps some going to our destination. Mr. Stephens & Judge Reagan go to Fort Warren. Some go to Fort McHenry. I don't know where Mr. Davis goes. I have looked at everything around here until I am tired of it but I suppose one day in prison will be more monotonous. I hope to be able to write you from there and to hear from you as you will know where to direct a letter. I understand the disposition of us is made by the War Department and I look for no change in it. Be sure & send to Macon for my clothes.

Yours affectionately,

/s/ Bro.

One of the stamped envelopes is addressed to Mrs. M. G. Hudson, Uniontown, Alabama, and tells more of the journey:

My dear Wife

I wrote you a line from Augusta & also from Savannah. We left Savannah on the 16th on Steamer "Emilie" to Hilton Head thence to this point on Steamer "W. P. Clyde." We had a remarkable pleasant trip — few aboard had seen the sea so smooth — nearly all the prisoners were sea sick — I was not, and am in remarkable good health — we have just been informed to-night that we have to leave at 6 AM tomorrow for *Fort Delaware* where I hope to hear from you — I do not know why I have not been permitted to take the parole — this matter has been decided at Washington without any hearing or our being informed what the charges are against us — I hope I shall not be long detained. . . .

Your devoted Husband

A letter addressed to Edward Rawle at New Orleans is of equal interest:

Dear Father

I wrote to you, a day or two ago, that I was a prisoner on my way to the North, I have just received the news that we, that is Genl. Wheeler & staff are to be sent to Fort Delaware about forty miles below Philadelphia, what our crime is I cannot tell except that we were trying to make our way to the Trans Miss Dept. and did not surrender ourselves with Genl. Johnston. I came in hopes they will give us a hearing on our arrival at the Fort. . .

/s/ Edward W. Rawle

Transmission of the letters was frustrated by General Halleck's orders directing that no person outside would be permitted to communicate verbally or in writing with the prisoners nor would any person on board be permitted to communicate with outsiders.

We find a letter signed by General H. W. Halleck instructing Pritchard to deliver General Wheeler and staff, and Cols. Lubbock and Johnston to Commander Parker of the "Maumee," and to deliver Alexander Stephens and Postmaster General Reagan to Commander Frailey of the "Tuscarora." Receipts from both of the Navy officers confirm transfer of these prisoners.

A note from General Halleck on May 22 instructed Pritchard to deliver to the "Pawtuxet" all the remaining prisoners except Davis, Clay and Harrison. He stated in the note that the women, children and servants were not regarded as prisoners but would remain on board till further orders. The receipt for these prisoners adds that they are to be conveyed to Ft. McHenry. Another Halleck note directed that Burton Harrison, Davis' secretary, be transferred to the Steamer "Pontoosa," and the receipt is signed by the Mate of that ship.

The most dramatic of the receipts is the final one, dated Fortress Monroe, May 22, 1865, and reading:

Received of Lt. Col. B. D. Pritchard 4th Mich Cav'l'y the following named prisoners Viz:

Jefferson Davis)	Late President of the so called
)	Confederate States
Clement C. Clay)	Supposed accomplice in the
)	assasination (sic) of President Lincoln

These prisoners were delivered to me by Col. Pritchard in obedience to orders from the Sec. War. (signed) Nelson A. Miles

Bvt. Major Gen'l. U. S. A.

Head Qrs. 4th Mich Cavalry Detach.
Washington D. C. May 26. 1865.

Am. C. M. Stanton,
Secretary of War,
Washington D. C.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that in obedience to orders received from Col. R. H. H. McInty Comdg Division, I left Mason Ga at eight o'clock P.M. on the 1st inst. in command of the 4th Mich Cavalry with a numerical strength of 449 men and 20 Officers with directions to move down the South bank of the Ocmulgee River from 75 to 100 miles to take possession of all the ferries below Hawkinsville picket the river as far as the strength of my Regt. would permit and to scout the country on both sides of the river for the purpose of capturing Jeff Davis and party, who were reported to have left Washington Ga. on the morning of the 1st inst. travelling South westward with an intention of crossing the Ocmulgee at some point between Hawkinsville and Jacksonville, or to capture any other Govt. parties who might be fleeing from Richmond. I marched the command all night and until 8 o'clock A.M. of the 8th inst. having marched thirty six miles when I halted five hours, rested and fed my command. - Moving on again at One o'clock P.M. I marched 15 miles farther and encamped for the night three miles below Hawkinsville, having marched a distance of 51 miles inside of 24 hours including all stops.

At 10 A.M. of the 9th inst I moved my command out in the direction of Abbyville which place I reached at 3 o'clock P.M. and where

all things in readiness and the transfer from the

War Department,
Adjutant General's Office,

Washington, May 8. 1866.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose to you, herewith, your
Commission of Brigadier General, by Revue, the receipt
of which please acknowledge.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

H. Kelton

Assistant Adjutant General.
(158)

Lt. Col. 4th Irish Cav.

Prof. Brig. Genl. P. H. Pritchard,
U.S. Volunteers.

Received of the
 President of the United States
 April 9, 1862
 P. G. Bistahard
 Captain of the 1st Regt. N.Y. Inf.

THE
 United States
 of AMERICA
 PRESIDENT of the



(To all who shall see these presents greeting)

Know Ye, That I do hereby confer on *P. G. Bistahard* of the
 U.S. Volunteers in the service of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate
 the rank of *Brigadier General* **BY BREVET** in said service to rank as such from the Tenth
 day of *May* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Sixtyfive, for faithful
 and meritorious services in the capture of Jefferson Davis.

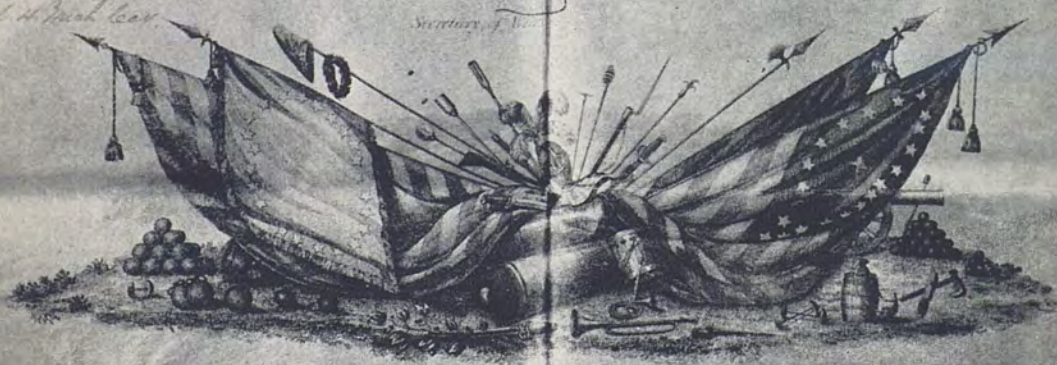
And I do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under his command, to obey
 and respect him accordingly and he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to
 time as he shall receive from me, or the future President of the United States of America, and other
 Officers set over him, according to him and the rules and discipline of war. This Commission to contin-
 ue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, this Ninth day of April, in
 our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Sixtyfive, and in the Nineteenth year
 of the Independence of the United States.

(The President)

Edwin M. Stanton
 Secretary of War

Approved



War Department,

Washington, May 27th, 1865.

Sir:

You are hereby informed that the President of the United States has appointed you, for faithful and meritorious service in the capture of Jefferson Davis, a Brigadier General of Volunteers, by Brevet, in the service of the United States, to rank as such from the tenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five. Should the Senate, at their next session, advise and consent thereto, you will be commissioned accordingly.

Immediately on receipt herof, please to communicate to this Department, through the ADJUTANT GENERAL of the Army, your acceptance or non-acceptance; and, with your letter of acceptance, return the OATH herewith enclosed, properly filled up, SUBSCRIBED and ATTESTED, and report your AGE, BIRTHPLACE, and the STATE of which you were a permanent RESIDENT.

~~You will report for duty to~~

Em Stanton
Secretary of War.
am

Brevet Brigadier General B D Pitchard,
United States Volunteers,
In person.

Treasury of the United States,
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

E. D. Pritchard
Treasurer U.

Benjamin D. Pritchard, Esq.,
late Lieut. Col. 4th Mich. Cavalry,
Allegan, Allegan Co., Mich.

Treasury of the United States.

Washington, December 1, 1865.

Sir:

In accordance with information as to your address received from the Second Comptroller of the Treasury, I forward you herewith draft #2186 for \$3000. drawn on War Warrant #3749 as your share in the reward for the capture of Jefferson Davis.

Very Respectfully

E. D. Pritchard
Secy. U. S. T.

Benjamin D. Pritchard, Esq.
late Lieut. Col. 4th Mich. Cavalry
Allegan,
Allegan Co., Mich.

It is to be expected that the next document among Pritchard's war papers bears a War Department heading and is signed by E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, and informs Col. Pritchard that:

. . . the President of the United States has appointed you, for faithful and meritorious service in the capture of Jefferson Davis, a Brigadier General of Volunteers, by Brevet, . . . to rank as such from the tenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty five . . ."

There were other matters still to be wound up in regard to the capture. After he had returned to civilian life in Michigan, General Pritchard wrote to Acting Adjutant E. D. Townsend in Washington as follows:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours . . . with regard to the private property of Jno. H. Reagan . . . at the time of Mr. Reagan's capture he had a Horse, Saddle & bridle, and claimed to have lost a watch, a few articles of clothing and some official papers but never claimed I think to have lost *any money*. The watch and clothing I made every effort to find and return but without success. The papers or at least a part of them came into my possession and were turned over to the War Department. The horse, saddle & bridle were retained and used by Reagan until we reached Macon, where they were sent with the rest of the captured property to my Reg't with instructions from Gen. Wilson to retain it there and to preserve it there as well as the circumstances would permit, saying that he would not assume the responsibility to settle any questions in regard to it. I was immediately ordered to Washington and the Reg't was soon ordered back to Nashville where I rejoined it on the 23rd of June. I found nothing but the horse with the Reg't, the saddle and bridle having either been abandoned for want of transportation or turned over as surplus stores. I then took the horse into my possession and endeavored to get some instruction in regard to his disposal, but none seemed to feel authorized to give any. . . . I decided to retain the horse, subject to the orders of the Department, as the gift of Mr. Reagan, he having expressed the wish several times during our passage to Fortress Monroe that I should have the horse in case it should not be returned to him.

The horse was unserviceable at the time & of little or no value, having been ridden from Macon to Nashville by some of the men in the Reg't. I did not retain him for his value but simply as a relict of the capture. I have brought to Mich. and recruited him up at an expense of near one hundred dollars, which is probably about what he would sell for in market. It is a small bay horse of about 900 lbs. weight, of a pony build.

The distribution of the reward was the subject of correspondence between Pritchard and the War Department and the Treasury Department for a lengthy period.

In the meantime the Senate had confirmed the appointment as Brigadier General, and the commission was signed by Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, and Andrew Johnson, President, under date of April 9, 1866.

The matter of the reward was still pending when Pritchard received a letter dated January 27, 1867, from his Congressman, J. F. Driggs, informing him:

. . . the Wis. Representatives in behalf of their Regt., take exception to the reward made by the War Dept. for the distribution of reward offered for the capture of Jeff Davis claiming that their Regt. had the right & demanding that it shall receive an equal amount man for man with your Regt. In justification of this demand they claim that unfairness was practiced on the night or morning of the capture by you in taking advantage of information furnished by the Col. of their Regt. by which means they were prevented from participation in the immediate capture . . . No doubt the appropriation will be promptly as soon as these differences are settled.

Almost two years were to go by before Benjamin Pritchard received from the Treasury Department, under date of December 1, 1868, draft #2186 for \$3000 drawn on War Warrant #3749 as his share of the reward for the capture of Jefferson Davis.

So ends the story of how Fate brought together Jefferson Davis' Dream and Benjamin Pritchard's Duty. .

This collection contains between 75 and 100 pieces including original envelopes.

Jefferson Davis photograph credit U. S. Signal Corps, Brady Collection National Archives. Photography by Ralph Orthof, N. Y. C.

J. A. F.